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EXAMINER

BLECK, CAROLYN M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/603,302

Applicant(s)

CHILDRESS, ALLEN B.

Examiner

Carolyn M Bleck

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 January 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20,22-28,43-49,51-60,62-68,81-99 and 111-116 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20,22-28,43-49,51-60,62-68,81-99 and 111-116 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Notice of Applicant***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 7 January 2005 has been entered.

2. This action is in response to the RCE filed 7 January 2005. Claims 1-20, 22-28, 43-49, 51-60, 62-68, 81-99, and 111-116 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, 24, 43, 44, 54, 55, 64, 81, 82, 88, 89, and 95 have been amended. Claims 114-116 are newly added.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-20, 22-28, 43-49, 51-60, 62-68, 81-99, and 111-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

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(A) As per claims 1, 13, 24, 43, 54, 64, 81, 88, and 95, Applicant has amended the claims to recite "wherein the context-sensitive help for the step is automatically invoked when initiating the step." It is unclear to the Examiner if the step of automatically invoking a help menu occurs every time a user initiates the processing of a bodily injury insurance claim. The Examiner respectfully requests clarification.

(B) Claims 2-12, 14-20, 22-23, 25-28, 44-49, 51-53, 55-60, 62-63, 65-68, 82-87, 89-94, 96-99, and 111-116 incorporate the deficiencies of independent claims 1, 13, 24, 43, 54, 64, 81, 88, and 95 through dependency, and are also rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-20, 22-28, 43-49, 51-60, 62-68, 81-99, and 111-113 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan et al. (5,655,085) in view of Brooks et al. (4,992,972), Borghesi et al. (5,950,169), and Vaidyanathan et al. (6,467,081).

(A) As per claims 1 and 8, Ryan discloses a method using a digital computer for initiating, processing, preparing, storing, and transmitting illustrations of universal life insurance, wherein the computer is operable by connecting to a database and at least

one other digital computer, including input and display apparatus to permit data to be entered in and retrieved from the database (Abstract) comprising:

(a) entering first data representing a first universal life insurance policy (col. 48 lines 8-41); and

(b) providing a computerized help system, preferably a context sensitive, hypertext-linked help system, available from any screen in the system, wherein the system includes a FMA\_HELP entity containing all context sensitive, hypertext linked help records including context keywords and hyperlink keywords in addition to the help text that enables these features, and wherein the entity is part of a relational database (reads on "an index table") (Fig. 3C-1 and 4A, col. 14 lines 37-40, col. 23 lines 1-5, col. 24 lines 1-20, and col. 26 lines 20-50).

Ryan fails to expressly disclose the computerized help system functionality (i.e., how the help system works).

Brooks discloses a method for providing on-line information such as help text for an application combining context sensitive and keyword, or index sensitive, access modes, wherein the application may include various types of programs, wherein a user uses the application for processing a particular command, including entering data for each text line for a parameter of the command, wherein the user moves a display cursor to input fields, wherein when all input fields have been completed, the user presses the "enter" key, the operating system accepts the parameters and performs the specified command, wherein if the user wishes help, the user presses the keyboard "help" key, wherein if at that time the cursor is located in the input field of one of the parameters,

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then the task panel is overlaid on the display screen with a help-text panel containing text describing the parameter whose field the cursor is located in, and wherein if the cursor is not in any of the input fields of the panel, then pressing the Help key brings up a help-text panel which describes the command generally in text lines (Fig. 4, col. 1 lines 23-34, col. 2 lines 18-33, col. 2 line 65 to col. 3 line 2, col. 3 line 23 to col. 4 line 58, col. 6 line 36-46, col. 7 lines 42-49, col. 8 lines 14-21, col. 9 lines 53-57, col. 10 lines 4-36, and col. 10 line 47 to col. 11 line 42). Furthermore, Brooks includes each input-field specification having individual entries for determining the location (LOC) of the field (reads on "page identifier"), wherein each help-area entry containing the LOC also includes a name which corresponds to the name of a particular help module in a help object (Fig. 4, col. 1 lines 23-34, col. 2 lines 18-33, col. 2 line 65 to col. 3 line 2, col. 3 line 23 to col. 4 line 58, col. 6 line 36-46, col. 7 lines 42-49, col. 8 lines 14-21, col. 9 lines 53-57, col. 10 lines 4-36, and col. 10 line 47 to col. 11 line 42).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to include the aforementioned features of Brooks within the method of Ryan with the motivation of reducing the need for paper documentation for the application program (col. 2 lines 18-27) and providing an easy and flexible method for providing general information about an entire display screen, or zooming in to more specific help when the user places a cursor in a particular area of the screen dealing with the aspect of the display the user wishes to study in more detail (Brooks; col. 1 lines 19-34).

Ryan and Brooks fail to expressly the insurance claims pertaining to bodily insurance claims, wherein processing a bodily injury insurance claim comprises evaluating, analyzing, and estimating the amount of damage associated with the bodily injuries. However, Ryan discloses that “while the invention has been particularly shown and described with reference to a preferred embodiment, it will be readily appreciated by those of ordinary skill in the art that various changes and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the invention (col. 47 lines 59-67).”

Borghesi discloses gathering data concerning the extent of damage or injury suffered by the injured, viewing and manipulating a total loss calculation for the damage or injury suffered by the injured, and estimating the damage or injury suffered by the injured (Fig. 6, col. 2 line 30 to col. 3 line 30, col. 4 line 64 to col. 5 line 15, col. 15 lines 34-39, col. 22 lines 54-63, col. 23 line 47 to col. 24 line 7).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Borghesi within the method taught collectively by Ryan and Brooks with the motivation of reducing the time and difficulty of transferring, accessing, and processing an insurance claim by authorized parties where the claims relate to injury of a person (col. 1 line 24 to col. 2 line 30, col. 20 lines 33-50) and increasing the marketability of the insurance system by providing a variety of types of insurance that are able to be handled.

Ryan, Brooks, and Borghesi fail to expressly disclose “wherein the context-sensitive help for the step is automatically invoked when initiating the step.” Further,

Ryan, Brooks, and Borghesi fail to expressly disclose "wherein the page identifier comprises a unique code for the display page."

Vaidyanathan discloses an automatic help module invoked upon a predetermined event, wherein the event includes positioning of a cursor over an identifier followed by a clicking a mouse button, hovering the mouse cursor over an identifier, selecting a menu or icon after highlighting the identifier, or the event can be the entry of identifier into the source code, wherein upon the event, the automatic help module then displays reference information regarding the identifier, wherein the identifier is associated with a specific identifier name, function name, class name, or operator within an editor display (reads on "unique code for the display page") (Abstract, col. 2 line 54 to col. 3 line 29, col. 7 line 26 to col. 8 line 38).

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to combine the teachings of Vaidyanathan within the method of Ryan, Brooks, and Borghesi with the motivation of reducing the amount of time and effort to locate information in a help system by automatically locating the information based on an event (Vaidyanathan; col. 2 lines 29-53).

(B) As per claim 2, Brooks discloses a plurality of command panel definitions stored in the system, wherein at least some of the command panel definitions have a help area contained within, wherein the help area includes a set of help area entries each associating a help module with a location area for the cursor, wherein a context sensitive selection means, coupled to a display and to an input device, is used for



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selecting a help module which the command panel definition associates with a location area containing the cursor, and wherein the context sensitive selection means may select more than one module, and wherein the help display means further comprises means for scrolling between different selected modules responsive to commands received from the user via the input device (col. 10 line 48 to col. 12 line 18). The remainder of claim 2 repeats the same limitations as claim 1, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 1. The motivation for combining Brooks into Ryan is given above in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(C) As per claim 3, Brooks discloses sorting module names into an ordered list sequenced according to how many times its TOPIC was accessed in the topic table (col. 10 lines 17-36). The remainder of claim 3 repeats the same limitations as claim 1, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 1. The motivation for combining Brooks into Ryan is given above in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(D) As per claims 4 and 5, Brooks discloses a help area entry containing a location LOC (reads on "page identifier") and a name NAME (reads on "object identifier"), wherein the name corresponds to the name of a particular help module in a help object (Fig. 4 and col. 6 lines 31-35), wherein the area actually used for a given cursor location is found by searching a list of entries in order, and designating the first entry whose LOCation includes the actual position of the cursor as the LOC. Furthermore, each help module is associated with help text mapped to the cursor text and displayed in a display

screen (see Abstract, Fig. 4 # 416-417, 420, and 440-441, and col. 10 line 48 to col. 12 line 8).

As per the recitation of an "index table," note the discussion above in the rejection of claim 1 related to an index table as disclosed by Ryan.

The remainder of claims 4 and 5 repeat the same limitations as claim 1, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 1. The motivation for combining Brooks into Ryan is given above in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(E) As per claim 6, Brooks discloses a help object comprised of a module name (Fig. 4 see #440-441) (reads on "header"). The remainder of claim 6 repeats the same limitations as claims 1 and 4-5, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims.

(F) As per claim 7, Brooks discloses a help object comprised of help text (Fig. 4 see #440-441). The remainder of claim 7 repeats the same limitations as claims 1 and 4-5, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims.

(G) As per claim 9, Ryan discloses context sensitive, hypertext linked help records comprised of context keywords and hyperlink keywords in addition to help text (col. 26 lines 20-30). It is noted the help records of Ryan are considered to be a form of "guidebook comprising a plurality of terms used in insurance claims processing." The

remainder of claim 9 repeats the same limitations as claim 1, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 1.

(H) As per claims 10-12, Brooks discloses providing a search index panel, wherein the search index accepts words or phrases to search for in an index object from a user, wherein the index object is comprised of a synonym table, root table, and topic table, wherein the user types a word or phrase describing possible subjects of interest into an input field and then presses the enter key, wherein the help facility parses the input phrase into individual words, wherein the help facility then finds all modules of help text relevant to the words in the input phrases, and constructs an ordered list of their titles based on the number of correspondences between all input search words and the index terms in each help module describing that module, and wherein displaying the list in a panel (Fig. 2E and 4 and col. 4 line 35 to col. 5 line 3). The motivation for combining Brooks with Ryan is given above in claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(I) Claim 13 appears to be a compilation of the features of claims 1 with the features of claims 4 and 5, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claims 1 and 4-5, in combination.

(J) Claim 14 appears to be a compilation of the features of claims 1 and 2 with the features of claims 4 and 5, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claims 1-2 and 4-5, in combination.

(K) Claim 15 repeats the same limitations as claim 3, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 3, and incorporated herein.

(L) Claim 16 appears to be a compilation of the features of claim 3 with the features of claims 4 and 5, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claims 3-5, in combination.

(M) As per claims 17-19, Brooks discloses providing individual entries into fields when using an application, wherein the location (LOC) of the fields (reads on "page identifier") is determined, wherein each help-area entry containing the LOC also includes a name which corresponds to the name of a particular help module in a help object (Fig. 4, col. 1 lines 23-34, col. 2 lines 18-33, col. 2 line 65 to col. 3 line 2, col. 3 line 23 to col. 4 line 58, col. 6 line 36-46, col. 7 lines 42-49, col. 8 lines 14-21, col. 9 lines 53-57, col. 10 lines 4-36, and col. 10 line 47 to col. 11 line 42). Furthermore, Brooks discloses sorting module names into an ordered list sequenced according to how many times its TOPIC was accessed in the topic table (col. 10 lines 17-36). It is noted that the LOC for determining a location of a cursor within an application (Fig. 4 and col. 6 lines 31-46) is considered to be a form of a "content item code." The remainder of claims 17-19 repeat the same limitations as claims 1-5, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims, and incorporated herein. The motivation for combining Brooks with Ryan is given above in claims 1-5, and incorporated herein.

(N) Claims 20 and 22-23 repeat the same limitations as claims 6-9, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims, and incorporated herein.

(O) Claim 24-27 differs from claims 13 and 14 by reciting a plurality of page identifiers. As per this recitation, it is noted that in the rejections of claims 13 and 14 address multiple page identifiers. Note, Brooks discloses more than one location identifier (see Figure 4 #417 and col. 6 lines 31-46). The remainder of claims 24-27 repeat the same limitations as claims 1, 3, 14, and 16-17, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims, and incorporated herein. The motivation for combining Brooks with Ryan is given above in claims 1 and 13, and incorporated herein.

(P) As per claim 28, Ryan and Brooks fail to expressly disclose determining a total number of the page identifier and content item codes that occur in each of the located first plurality of help information entries and second plurality of help information entries and displaying the first plurality of units of help information and the second plurality of units of help information on the display in order of the determined total number of the page identifier and content item codes that occur in each unit of help information. However, Brooks includes sorting module names into an ordered list sequenced according to how many times its TOPIC was accessed in the topic table (col. 10 lines 17-36). It is respectfully submitted that displaying search results in order of their relevance based on the number of terms, codes, or identifiers occurring in each

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document is typically used when searching a database based on a keyword search, and the skilled artisan would have found it an obvious modification to include sorting the results based on the page identifiers and content codes with the motivation of increasing user search results and reducing the time in searching by ordering help information based on relevance (Ryan; col. 2 lines 40-45 and col. 4 lines 44-48).

(Q) Claim 43 appears to differ from method claim 1 by reciting hardware elements, namely, a computer system including a memory medium, a display device coupled to the computer system, one or more input devices coupled to the computer system, a help database, and an insurance claims processing program storing in the memory medium and executable within the computer system. As per these elements, Ryan discloses:

(a) a digital computer including memory for initiating, processing, preparing, storing, and transmitting illustrations of universal life insurance (Abstract, col. 11 lines 8-14, and col. 51 line 52-55);

(b) I/O devices (col. 11 lines 8-14 and col. 51 line 52-55);

(c) a terminal with data input screens coupled to the digital computer (Fig. 1);

(d) providing a computerized help system, preferably a context sensitive, hypertext-linked help system, available from any screen in the system, wherein the system includes a FMA\_HELP entity containing all context sensitive, hypertext linked help records including context keywords and hyperlink keywords in addition to the help text that enables these features, and wherein the entity is part of a relational database

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(reads on "an index table") (Fig. 3C-1 and 4A, col. 14 lines 37-40, col. 23 lines 1-5, col. 24 lines 1-20, and col. 26 lines 20-50); and

(e) a program, comprising a series of instructions, which is stored in memory to which the processor has access, wherein the processor executes the instructions (col. 11 lines 15-30).

The remainder of claim 43 repeats the same limitations as method claim 1, and is therefore rejected for the same reasons given for claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(R) System claims 44-49, 51-60, and 62-68 repeat the same limitations as claims 1-43, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims, and incorporated herein.

(S) Claim 81 repeats the subject matter of method claim 1, respectively as a carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer executable to carry out the series of steps from method claim 1. As the underlying processes of claim 1 have been shown to be fully disclosed by the collective teachings of Ryan and Brooks in the rejection of claim 1, it is readily apparent a digital computer including memory for initiating, processing, preparing, storing, and transmitting illustrations of universal life insurance (Abstract, col. 11 lines 8-14, and col. 51 line 52-55), wherein a program, comprising a series of instructions, which is stored in memory to which the processor has access, and wherein the processor executes the instructions (col. 11 lines 15-30) disclosed by Ryan provides the means to carry out

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these steps. As such, these limitations are rejected for the same reasons given above for method claim 1, and incorporated herein.

(T) Carrier medium claims 82-99 repeat the same limitations as claims 1-20, 22-28, 43-49, 51-60, 62-68, and 81, and are therefore rejected for the same reasons given for those claims, and incorporated herein.

(U) As per claims 111-113, Ryan discloses providing a computerized help system, preferably a context sensitive, hypertext-linked help system, available from any screen in the system, wherein the system includes a FMA\_HELP entity containing all context sensitive, hypertext linked help records including context keywords and hyperlink keywords in addition to the help text that enables these features, and wherein the entity is part of a relational database (reads on "an index table") (Fig. 3C-1 and 4A, col. 14 lines 37-40, col. 23 lines 1-5, col. 24 lines 1-20, and col. 26 lines 20-50). Although Ryan and Brooks do not explicitly state the first unit of help information and the display page of the first step being displayed at the same time, it is respectfully submitted that typical help systems present both the help system and the current application a user is working in simultaneously, and therefore it would have been an obvious modification to the method or system of Ryan and Brooks to include displaying help information and a display page at the same time with the motivation of ensuring a user does not have to exit an application when using the help system thus increasing usability and user



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friendliness of the system and reducing the amount of time required to use the help system.

7. Claims 114-116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ryan et al. (5,655,085) in view of Brooks et al. (4,992,972), Borghesi et al. (5,950,169), and Vaidyanathan et al. (6,467,081), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Sciammarella et al. (5,982,369).

(A) As per claims 114-116, Ryan, Borghesi, and Vaidyanathan, fail to expressly disclose wherein determining the first relevance value comprises using a word count for a term or a code from the first help information entry, wherein determining second relevance value comprises using a word count for the term or the code from the second help information entry, wherein determining the first relevance value comprises determining a position of a code or a term in the first help information entry, wherein determining the a second relevance value comprises determining a position of the code or the term in the second help information entry, wherein the first unit of help information includes text sections from

Sciammarella discloses a controllable processor programmed to examine a plurality of documents in said database for determining relevance of each document to a first search term, to obtain as first search results only those documents that are relevant to said first search term, and for determining relevance of each document to a

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second search term, to obtain as second search results only those documents that are relevant to said second search term, to determine match values for said first and second search results such that a higher match value indicates higher relevance to said first or second search term, to display images of said first search results in such a manner that an image of a more relevant search result having a first match value is displayed at a different position on said screen than an image of a less relevant search result having a second match value which is lower than said first match value, and to display images of said second search results in such a manner that an image of a more relevant search result having a third match value is displayed at a different position on said screen than an image of a less relevant search result having a fourth match value which is lower than said third match value (Figure 1, col. 9 line 15 to col. 10 line 7). Sciammarella discloses in Figure 1 including text sections from the one or more documents.

At the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Sciammarella within the method of Ryan, Borghesi, and Vaidyanathan with the motivation of allowing a user to easily discern the relevance of particular documents (Sciammarella; col. 1 lines 33-47).

### ***Response to Arguments***

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20, 22-28, 43-49, 51-60, 62-68, 81-99, and 111-116 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn Bleck whose telephone number is (703) 305-3981. After April 13, 2005, the Examiner can be contacted at (571) 272-6767. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 8:00am – 5:30pm, and from 8:30am – 5:00pm on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas can be reached at (703) 305-9588.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 306-1113.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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10. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or faxed to:**

(703) 872-9306 or (703) 872-9326 [Official communications]

(703) 872-9327 [After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

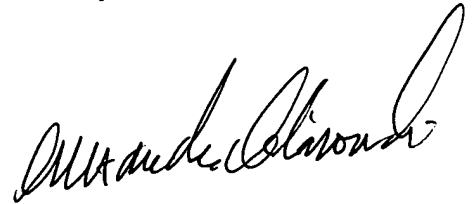
(703) 746-8374 [Informal/ Draft communications, labeled  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park 5, 2451 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, VA, 7th Floor (Receptionist).

CP

CB

March 31, 2005



**ALEXANDER KALINOWSKI**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**